

the guardian weekly

Level » Lower intermediate

February 2012

Style » Lesson plan

These worksheets can be downloaded free from guardian.co.uk/weekly. You can also find more advice for teachers and learners from the Guardian Weekly's Learning English section on the site.

Materials prepared by Janet Hardy-Gould

Artist hides gift for gallery visitors

Instructions

Lesson focus: reading, question formation, prepositions of place

Materials: copies of article, dictionaries

Time: 55 minutes

- Show students the photo accompanying the article. Write on the board the question words: Where? Who? What? Why? Elicit questions about the photo. For example, *Where is the man? Who is he? What is he doing? Why is he looking under the table?* Students in groups discuss possible answers. Class feedback. Introduce *to look at something intently*. **7 mins**
- Write the headline on the board. Which questions can they definitely answer now? eg Where? An art gallery. Who? A visitor to the gallery. What is the "gift" the artist has hidden? Elicit possible answers. **3 mins**
- Direct students to task 1. Students in pairs match the words and definitions. Class feedback. **8 mins**

a to cause damage	1 to breathe once very deeply to show you are tired, sad etc.
b eager	2 the group of people who work in a place
c exhibit	3 to break or harm something
d to give a sigh	4 something in a gallery for people to look at, eg a painting
e publicity stunt	5 very keen to do something
f to retrieve	6 a person who does a job without being paid for it
g staff	7 very tired, especially after you have been working hard
h volunteer	8 when you do something unusual to attract people's attention
i weary	9 to bring or get something back

Answers a 3 b 5 c 4 d 1 e 8 f 9 g 2 h 6 i 7
- Give out copies of the article. Students read the first two paragraphs and find what is hidden in the gallery. Is it similar to their original ideas? Focus back on the words *light fittings*, *skirting boards* and *window sills* - encourage students to deduce them from context. **4 mins**
- Direct students to task 2. Go through the true (T) or false (F) questions. Students read the whole article and find the answers. They underline where they find

the information in the text. Class feedback. **10 mins**

- a** [] A large number of visitors are now coming to the gallery.
b [] There is a new exhibition by two Swiss people.
c [] Sorenson is tired because she has been talking to the visitors.
d [] The gallery helped Georgeson to hide the cheque.
e [] One of Georgeson's portraits was exhibited in the Milton Keynes gallery.
f [] Georgeson is going to come back for the cheque if nobody finds it.
g [] The cheque is on one of the works of art.
h [] More people are now working at the gallery to protect the exhibits.

Answers a T b T c F d F e F f T g F h T

- Write up the following questions:
a Do you think it was a good idea for the artist to hide the cheque? Why/Why not?
b Do you know of other examples where people have hidden things or messages in public places? (They could be real-life examples or from a book such as *The Da Vinci Code*.)
 Students prepare ideas with the help of dictionaries, then have a class discussion. **8 mins**
 - Tell students they are now going to hide a cheque in the classroom. Brainstorm furniture/places in the room, plus words to describe positions eg *under*, *between*, *next to*, *inside*, *high up*, *low down* etc. Then ask each student to make a cheque. Put students into pairs. One student secretly hides the cheque and the other student asks up to 20 Yes/No questions to find where it is. Go through examples of questions beforehand, eg *Is the cheque high up in the room? Is the cheque inside something?* Students swap roles and repeat. **15 mins**
- Additional activity** Students can read about a Guardian reporter's attempt to find the hidden cheque at: bit.ly/Xrbfh9

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A visitor searches for gallery's hidden gift Graeme Robertson

Student tasks

1 Work with a partner to match these words to their correct definition.

- | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| a to cause damage | b eager | c exhibit |
| d to give a sigh | e publicity stunt | f to retrieve |
| g staff | h volunteer | i weary |

1 ☐ to breathe once very deeply to show you are tired, sad etc.

2 ☐ the group of people who work in a place

3 ☐ to break or harm something

4 ☐ something in a gallery for people to look at, eg a painting

5 ☐ very keen to do something

6 ☐ a person who does a job without being paid for it

7 ☐ very tired, especially after you have been working hard

8 ☐ when you do something unusual to attract people's attention

9 ☐ to bring or get something back

2 Read the whole article and decide which of these statements are true [T] or false [F].

a ☐ A large number of visitors are now coming to the gallery.

b ☐ There is a new exhibition by two Swiss people.

c ☐ Sorenson is tired because she has been talking to the visitors.

d ☐ The gallery helped Georgeson to hide the cheque.

e ☐ One of Georgeson's portraits was exhibited in the Milton Keynes gallery.

f ☐ Georgeson is going to come back for the cheque if nobody finds it.

g ☐ The cheque is on one of the works of art.

h ☐ More people are now working at the gallery to protect the exhibits.

Article: Artist hides gift for gallery visitors

1 A stream of art lovers has poured into an art gallery in Milton Keynes in the UK, spending hours studying the new exhibits intently. The Swiss artists Silvia Bächli and Eric Hattan must be surprised at the success of their latest exhibition. Only the fact that the visitors are looking just as intently at light fittings, skirting boards and window sills gives the game away.

2 "No, nobody has found it yet," Katharine Sorensen, the gallery's communications director, said. She has the slightly weary air of a woman who has spent many days doing interviews with journalists from all over the world. This is all since the news spread that local artist Tomas Georgeson had hidden a signed cheque for \$12,000 somewhere in the gallery.

3 "We've had hundreds of people looking everywhere, and obviously we've all had a look, but nobody has seen it. If," she added darkly, "it is actually there to find."

4 The gallery insists that far from being its own publicity stunt, it knew nothing about the cheque until it heard about it from the BBC last month.

5 Georgeson is best known as a painter whose portrait of his father was included in a 2011 National Portrait Gallery exhibition in London. He knows the 300-metre-square Milton Keynes Gallery well because he has previously worked there as a volunteer. He said that he had hidden the cheque "as something positive in a town eager to establish itself as a cultural destination".

6 Assuming the cheque does exist and nobody finds it, the artist has said he will retrieve it on 1 March. Meanwhile the gallery has had to bring in extra staff to guard the displays, although Georgeson said it was not hidden "on or around" any of the works of art, and asked visitors to take great care not to cause any damage.

7 "We have definitely seen more people in," Sorensen said, with a tiny sigh. "Which is great - obviously."

Original article by Maev Kennedy, rewritten by Janet Hardy-Gould.